Design Star Strategy Alignment Worksheet

REVISED February 20, 2023

NARRATIVE DESIGN IS AN ITERATIVE PROCESS, and it's important to refine your design elements until all are working in sync and are in service of your goals. Once you have gone through your design star worksheets and established your deep narrative, narrative, goals, audience, and form, you can use this worksheet to check each element of your project for alignment.

Fill out the worksheet on page 71 to see all of your design elements together. Below are questions you can then use to make sure that your project is narratively strategic. You should discuss and answer these questions collaboratively with your team involved in the co-design and implementation of your narrative project.

- 1 Are your Design Star points aligned?
 - Does your narrative grow naturally out of your deep narrative?
 - Does your narrative goal advance your narrative?
 - Does your project goal describe the impact that you want your project form to have?
 - Does your project form make sense for who your audience is and offer an
 opportunity to advance your narrative?
- 2 Will your project actually reach your audience? If you're not sure, what can you adjust to make sure that you do reach your audience?
- Why do you believe your project will work on your audiences? What do you know about your audiences and what are your assumptions that lead you to believe your project will have the intended impact?

4 Put yourself in your audience's shoes as they encounter/experience your project. Is your narrative clear to them — without having to explain or translate it? If you're not sure, what can you adjust to make sure your narrative is understood?

5 How might you measure that your project reached and impacted your audiences and achieved its goals?

DESIGN STAR WORKSHEET: EXAMPLE

This example has been excerpted from the Muslim Futures Project's Design Star, completed for the Chrysalis Lab

YOUR DEEP NARRATIVE	YOUR NARRATIVE
Abundance Belonging Mutuality/Reciprocity	Intersectional Muslim communities are also American communities / What is good for Muslims is good for all of us
YOUR AUDIENCE	YOUR GOALS
Culturally-literate liberal and moderate folks of all races who are susceptible to Islamophobic narratives.	NARRATIVE GOAL(S): 1. Advance the view of Muslim communities as American communities. What is good for Muslims is good for all of us. 2. Dismantle the war on terror framing. PROJECT GOAL(S): Create stories that manifest aspirational Muslim futures in the U.S.
YOUR FORM	

- Part 1: Conduct a writers' room utilizing our unique collaborative worldbuilding practice and develop story ideas based on values-driven aspirational Muslim futures.
- Part 2: Publish a prose fiction anthology and graphic novel anthology with stories developed from the writers' room.
- Part 3: Support writers to continue translating Muslim Futures stories into short films, features, and series pitches.

DESIGN STAR WORKSHEET

Use this worksheet to pull all of your narrative design elements together. This can provide a transparent, strategic view for your design process. Use the Design Star Strategy Check worksheet on the following page to check for alignment.

YOUR DEEP NARRATIVE	YOUR NARRATIVE
YOUR AUDIENCE	YOUR GOALS
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	PROJECT GOAL(S):
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YOUR FORM	